

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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## The Bloomfield Citizen.

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### BE CHEERFUL.

The world is like a mirror which, when you stand before it, reflects your own aspect, dress, and soul. With life's grand possibilities, but face it with a cheerful smile and sunny as you can. The life will be represented as an oncoming summer's day.

—I. MORRIS.

### TOO MUCH ALIKE.

"Yes," asserted Mr. Bird, with evident appreciation, as he ran his fingers curiously through his iron gray hair, "yes, sir, as you observe, they are very pretty girls, and their likeness to each other, in every way, is truly wonderful."

The remark was made in answer to a tribute of respect which the writer had paid to a pair of young ladies—I use the word "pair" advisedly, because they were twins—who had passed out of the office of Mr. Bird, one of the oldest and most highly respected members of the Middlesex bar.

"I know the mother of those girls and their sister, and their parents, more than thirty years ago. The grandparents of those girls were clients of the man with whom I read law, and afterward, their children became my clients, and now I am the legal adviser of both the grand children. I don't think, however, that those children are as much alike as were their mother and her sister. You could not tell them apart at all, unless you had them together."

At this point one of the young ladies returned, with a little rush and flurry, saying in a very pretty tone:

"I beg your pardon, Mr. Bird, but I went off without my gloves."

"Don't apologize, don't apologize, I only thought to see you in my office or my home, at any time."

"Ah, you mean, Mr. Bird; but I thank you for the compliment all the same," and away she flattered.

"Confound it!" growled the old gentleman, as he resumed his seat, after closing the door upon the fair visitor. "I'd have sworn that one was Annie. Then he looked up with a smile, after thinking a few minutes, and resumed:

"If you can spare five minutes, and care to hear it, I will tell you how I came near going crazy getting acquainted with the mother of those young ladies and her sister."

Of course, nothing would please me better, and I said so at once. Mr. Bird produced an ancient and most respectable brand of cigars, and when we had lighted up he proceeded:

"The maiden name of those young ladies' mother and her twin sister was Van Scriver, and their father, old John Van Scriver, was a large, fine, and noble, quite wealthy, residing near Princeton. I had been admitted to the bar only about a year when he died, and my preceptor, in whose office I was still located, had the settlement of the estate."

"On one occasion he wrote to the girls, who were the only heirs, and certain memorial from certain papers in the homestead, and that on a day he mentioned he would be there to get them, asking the girls to look the papers up in the meantime. When the day came the old man, who was particularly anxious to see me, came to take his horse and carriage and do the errand; and I was only too glad to oblige him."

"In due season I reached the homestead, was received by a staid, elderly housekeeper and ushered into the parlor, where I was greeted by one of the brightest and most beautiful young ladies I had ever met with. I told her who I was and how I came to be there."

"That is all satisfactory, Mr. Bird. We are glad to see any friend of Mr. Van Scriver's. Be seated, and I will have the papers ready for you in a few minutes. Excuse me, please," and she disappeared."

"I sat pleasantly thinking of the young lady who had just left me, when the housekeeper came in with cake and wine after the then good, old fashioned fashion, and soon left me to enjoy them. I had been alone again but a very short time, it appeared to me, when the young lady returned with papers in her hand; but instead of coming forward, she stopped and stared at me in the most embarrassing way."

"Did you find the papers?" I asked. "Yes, she exclaimed, with a 'Jack' first in her beautiful voice. 'Did I what?'"

"Find the papers you went after?"

"What are you talking about? Who are you, sir, and pray, what are you doing here?"

"The only thing I'm doing at present, madam, I responded, in tones quite as casual as her own, 'is leaving here as soon as possible.'"

"Oh, thank you," she replied, with lofty urbanity, as the maddest young man in New Jersey slammed the door behind him."

"Long afterward I learned that I had literally driven away when the housekeeper re-entered the room, and Miss Laura Van Scriver, with her dignity still at its full height, demanded:

"Who was that horrid, impudent young man I found in the parlor just now?"

"Why, he's the young man Mr. Adair

sent down for some papers that has gone to get. Where is he?"

"Miss Laura responded by dropping into a chair and exclaiming, with almost a scream:

"Oh, my! haven't I done it? Why, Mrs. Elkins, I actually drove the poor fellow out of the house. What in the world will I do? Don't, for gracious sake, tell Maggie. I'll make it up with Mr. Adair somehow, indeed I will."

"The result was that Miss Maggie Van Scriver never heard of my cavalier treatment, and was for a time filled with wonder as to what manner of business man I could possibly be, having driven fifteen miles to do an errand and then gone off without courtesy or performance."

"I turned my wrath and kept it nice and warm until I reached home, and then poured it all out to Mr. Adair, whose laughter was so long and uproarious that I took on a fresh installment of virtuous indignation, and was about giving the old gentleman a piece of my mind when he bade me shut up, while he wiped away the tears of hilarity and comforted me by saying: 'Bird, my dear fellow, it is all my fault. I utterly forgot to tell you that the girls are twins, and so terribly alike that you can't tell one of them from the other.'"

"The next day brought a wondering letter from Miss Maggie, asking what had caused my sudden and unaccountable departure, and desiring to know if I was a Son of Temperance whom she had inadvertently horrified and insulted by sending him cake and wine, and would Mr. Adair please tell her what it all meant, anyhow."

"Now, here's your chance, Bird," said the old man, handing me the letter. "Just take my time and have another drive down there. You can fix up the mistake, whatever it is, in a jiffy, and get what I want this time, sure."

"Away I went, and in due time was in the Van Scriver parlor. I took a critical look at the young lady as she came forward and offered me her hand, which I lost no time in taking. I was sure of Maggie Van Scriver now."

"I'm very glad to see you, Mr. Bird. Pray what made you leave so unceremoniously on Monday?"

"Well, Miss Maggie, I thought it was about the best thing I could do under the circumstances."

"What? Just because I offered you a little wine and cake?"

"Not at all. The refreshments were as acceptable as they were gracefully tendered."

"Then why did you go away before I returned?"

"I didn't go away before you returned. I staid until you came back and practically turned me out of the house."

"I turned you out of the house?" she exclaimed, in blank astonishment. "Why, I never did anything of the kind."

"I am sorry to contradict a lady; but you certainly did."

"By this time I had forgotten all about the twins in the case, and Miss Maggie's brow darkened ominously as she said, gravely:

"Mr. Bird, have you been drinking? I wish you to distinctly understand that I am not a story teller, and I say I never saw you after I went out of this room after the papers."

"Miss Van Scriver, I want it equally distinctly and emphatically borne in mind that I am not a liar, and if you had not in effect turned me out of the house, preventing me from knowing about me, I should not have gone away."

"Then Miss Maggie's eyes flashed as she retorted:

"And you cannot oblige me more than by going away again."

"I was half way across the yard to my carriage, when I heard a tearfully plaintive voice, crying: 'Oh, Maggie! Call him back! Don't let him go! It was I that did it!'"

"I turned in considerable astonishment, and there stood both girls on the porch, looking so terribly alike that, staring at them in semi-idiotic wonder, I could not for the life of me have told which was the other. There is but little more of it. The story of how Laura fired me out and concealed the fact from Maggie had to be told numberless times, until the moon shone brightly down upon my pleasant reflections as I pursued homeward the lonely road that was not lonely at all."

"Well," asked the writer, "is that all there is of it?"

"Yes," said Mr. Bird, with a queer smile, "except that I am the uncle of those two girls that just left us, and the mischievous Laura is their aunt."

Lieut. J. Dusk Chandler in Frank Leslie.

Many stories have been told on the plains illustrating the verandancy and eastern innocence of "pilgrims" and "tenderfeet." One of the best which the News now recalls is related in regard to the manner in which one of the old plains ranchmen up near the South pass got a new wagon. He had an old one, which was practically worthless, and he had made many efforts to trade it off to passing trains and travelers, but without success. He was getting considerably discouraged when a lone "pilgrim" appeared at the ranch and camped for the night. The pilgrim was a green and, as he was bound over the mountains, had many questions to ask about the mountain pass, how wide it was, and whether wagons experienced much difficulty in getting through. He had a brand new wagon, which struck the ranchman's eye, and he determined to play a little trick on him to get it.

The next morning the "pilgrim" saw the ranchman very carefully measuring his wagon, and very naturally his curiosity was excited, and his inquiries were answered by the solemn assurance from the ranchman that the wagon was just two inches too wide to get through the pass. The pilgrim was dumfounded and in a peck of trouble. Finally his eyes rested on the old rattlesnake of the ranchman, which he measured and found to be two inches narrower than his own.

He promptly proposed a trade. The ranchman demurred. His wagon was old, to be sure, but then it was narrow enough to go through the pass in case he should ever want to visit the Salt Lake valley. The more he objected the more importunate the "pilgrim" became, and finally a trade was consummated, the ranchman getting the new wagon and



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